REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-6, 8-11 and 13 are pending.

By this Preliminary Amendment, Claims 1 and 13 are amended. Support for the amendments can be found at least page in Figures 3 and 4 of the application as originally filed. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter is presented herein.

The Final Office Action of March 22, 2010 rejected Claims 1 and 3-4 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 6,155,200 to Yasuhiro Horiike et al. (Horiike); rejected Claims 5-6 and 8-10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Horiike; rejected Claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Horiike in view of U.S. Patent Number 5,884,009 to Wataru Okase (Okase); and rejected Claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Horiike in view of U.S. Patent Number 6,817,377 to Paul Reimer et al. (Reimer).

Applicants traverse the rejections for at least the following reason(s).

Applicants note that Figure 2 of Horike teaches a shower head 18 having an electrode 16 disposed therein and a plurality of gas outlet holes 19 defined in a lower surface.

Apparently, the Office Action considers the area or volume above the electrode 16 within the shower head 18 as corresponding with the gas-mixing chamber of Claim 1 (and presumably Claim 13). As such, it appears as if the "openings" defined between the left and right ends of the electrode 16 and the left and rights side walls of the shower head 18 (when looking at Figure 2) are considered as defining gas mixture supply ports

which are in fluid communication between the gas-mixing chamber (defined by the Office Action as the area above electrode 16 in the shower head 18) and the shower head 18. Moreover, such a definition would also appear to locate the gas mixture supply ports of Horiike as being located on a radially extending line of the shower head.

Applicants submit Claim 1 (and Claim 13) further recites "*the gas mixture supply port is so constructed and arranged that the gas mixture to be supplied from the gas-mixing chamber flows in direct contact with, and only from outside a circumferential outer perimeter of, the upper surface of the shower head and the gas-injection holes toward a central portion along the upper surface of the shower head.*"

As noted above, the Office Action appears to consider the area or volume above the electrode 16 of Horiike as corresponding to the recited gas-mixing chamber of Claim 1 (and Claim 13). Further, if the gas mixture supply port is considered as the "opening" defined between the left and right ends of the electrode 16 and the left and right side walls of the shower head 18, then the gas mixture supply ports of Horiike would appear to be so constructed and arranged that the gas mixture from the gas-mixing chamber would flow in direct contact with, and only from outside the circumferential outer perimeter of, the upper surface of the portion of the shower head 18 having the gas outlet holes 19 toward a central portion of the shower head 18.

Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 (and Claim 13) now recites the gas mixture supply port is defined only by opposing surfaces of the gas-mixing and film-forming chambers. Figures 3 and 4 of the application as originally filed fully support

recitation of such features. Claim 1(and Claim 13) further recites each gas-injection hole of the shower head directly opposes the gas-mixing chamber. Again, Figures 3 and 4 of the application as originally filed fully supports recitation of such a feature.

Applicants respectfully submit that Horrike fails to teach or suggest such a feature as the electrode 16 in Figure 2 is disposed directly between the gas outlet holes 19 and the "gas-mixing chamber." As such, the gas outlet holes 19 of Horiike are disposed indirectly opposite the "gas-mixture chamber" and not directly as are the gas-injection holes of Claims 1 and 13.

Applicants respectfully submit that modifying Horrike to include the Okase gas-ring and/or Reimer's load-lock and conveyer chambers would not cure or otherwise address the above-described deficiencies of Horiike.

As such, the Applicants submit that Claims 1 and 13 are allowable over Horiike, Okase and Reimer, alone or in any combination thereof.

Claims 3-6 and 8-11 depend from Claim 1. It is respectfully submitted that these dependent claims be deemed allowable for at least the same reasons Claim 1 is allowable, as well as for the additional subject matter recited therein.

Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

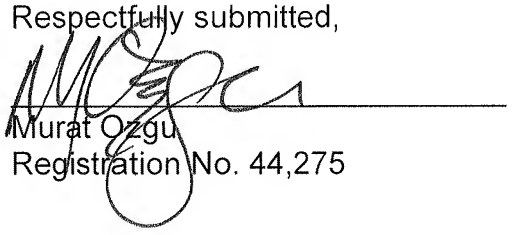
Prompt and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application, withdrawal of the outstanding rejections, allowance of Claims 1, 3-6, 11 and 13, and the prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowability.

Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension, together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to counsel's Deposit Account No. 01-2300, **referencing attorney docket number 026390.00009**.

Respectfully submitted,



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